Unificationists honor Martin Luther King Day in the Bronx, NY

Gary Hillier
January 16, 2017

Yesterday I went to the Pathseo Soup Kitchen, which is located at the Caldwell Temple of the AME Zion Church in the Bronx. It was about a 35-mile drive from home, but I got there in about 45 minutes as the traffic was very light because of the holiday. And I managed to get a street parking spot across the street from the building!

I entered through a side door to the basement of the building to find quite a number of people already there. It was not very organized, but I found a couple of people in charge and they told me that we would get started as soon as the leader of the event showed up.

There seemed to be around 50 to 100 people there, including a large group of young people wearing identical blue t-shirts. Americorps was one of the organizing groups but there appeared to be a number of groups and individuals from various locations in the Bronx and other New York City locations as well.

The project for the day was to clean up and reorganize the food and other items stored in the basement location of the soup kitchen. We began the day by forming a circle and getting an introduction to the purpose of the day and being informed that there are approximately 1.6 million residents of New York City who experience food insecurity (not enough food for 3 meals per day). Part of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech was then read, and we formed teams and began our various projects, including cleaning, reorganizing, and building shelving to help the organization.

It was just a few hours of hard work, but it was fun, and there was a wonderful spirit of people of all ages and races working together to aid a worthy cause. It was fun talking to new people and hearing about their lives, their struggles, and their various occupations and hobbies. Most of all it was a great experience that I would like every day to be like -- people working together without regard to our differences. Just like one family under God!